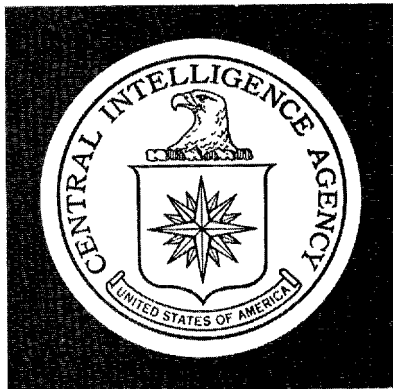


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USSR-Egypt: The Soviets reportedly will assume control of ship construction and repair facilities in Egypt.

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[redacted]
the Soviet-built Alexandria shipyard, together with nearby ship repair facilities, will be turned over to the USSR on 1 September. [redacted]

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[redacted] once Soviet technical and supervisory personnel have assumed control all Soviet merchant and naval ships in the Mediterranean will be repaired in Alexandria.

The drydock facilities at Alexandria are capable of handling the largest Soviet naval ships deployed in the Mediterranean, but only a few ships could be repaired at a time.

During the past year the Soviet Mediterranean squadron has been making greater use of Egyptian ports for minor repairs, replenishment, and shore leave. The Soviets have the use of storage facilities for fuel and lubricants at Port Said, and have maintained a repair ship at Alexandria for more than a year. Increased submarine facilities would be particularly welcome to them since about ten submarines--nearly half of the combat ships of the squadron--are regularly deployed in the Mediterranean.

Since the Alexandria shipyard is available to the USSR on a contract basis, it is more likely that the Soviets are interested in making use of expanded repair facilities than in establishing a formal naval base. The USSR could thus avoid the political disadvantage of establishing a naval base on Arab soil. [redacted]

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NOTES

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USSR: The Soviets successfully orbited an unmanned Soyuz spacecraft early yesterday. The purpose of this mission is not yet apparent, but it may involve a rendezvous and docking operation with another unmanned spacecraft not yet launched. This is the fifth Soyuz orbited since Cosmonaut Komarov perished in Soyuz 1 in April 1967. [REDACTED]

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(continued)



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Nigeria: Negotiations in Addis Ababa over arrangements for transporting relief supplies into war-torn Biafra have reached an impasse. Emperor Haile Selassie is reported to believe he has come to a dead end with both parties, who continue to raise objections based on political or military considerations to nearly every proposal for air and sea corridors. For the last two weeks the negotiations have not touched on the matters of a cease-fire or a general political settlement, and there is little likelihood of an agreement on any subject.

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